

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a nonwoven for the manufacture of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

introducing fibers with a finite length to at least one separating device, said fibers being introduced in the direction of a longitudinal axis of the at least one separating device;

separating the fibers of at least one type of filter material into individualized fibers in the at least one separating device having at least one separating element rotating about a rotational axis, the at least one rotating separating element tears the fibers apart and accelerates the separated, individualized fibers; and

feeding the separated, individualized fibers to a conveyor moving in a conveying direction such that the separated fibers form the nonwoven wherein a rotational axis of the at least one separating device is oriented essentially parallel to the conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the separating step includes separating fibers of at least two types of filter material in two of the separating devices.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3, further comprising combining the two types of separated fibers prior to the feeding step.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a nonwoven for the production of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

introducing fibers with a finite length to at least two separating devices, said fibers having at least two types of filter material, said fibers being introduced in the direction of a longitudinal axis of each of the at least two separating device devices;

separating fibers of the at least two types of filter materials in separate separating devices;

combining the separated fibers; and

feeding the separated fibers to a conveyor moving in a conveying direction such that the separated fibers form the nonwoven wherein each separating device comprises one separating element that rotates around a rotational axis oriented essentially parallel to the conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein in the feeding step includes feeding the separated fibers from above the conveyor.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein one of the at least two types of filter material is a multi-component fiber.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein one of the at least two types of filter material is a bi-component fiber.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising adding at least one of granulate and powder to the separated fibers before the feeding step.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A machine for producing a nonwoven for the production of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

at least one separating device for separating fibers of at least one type of filter material, wherein the fibers are introduced with a finite length ~~into~~ in the direction of a longitudinal axis of the at least one separating device, and the at least one separating device includes a rotating separating element; and

a conveyor downstream of the at least one separating device for receiving the separated fibers from the at least one separating device ~~where-in~~ wherein the rotating separating element has a rotational axis essentially oriented parallel to the conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The machine according to claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ at least two separating devices are arranged above the conveyor.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The machine of claim 11, wherein at least two of the separating devices are provided, the at least two separating devices being separate from one another.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The machine according to claim 14, further comprising conveying chutes respectively arranged downstream of each separating device.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The machine of claim 15, wherein the conveying chutes converge with one another to form a chamber upstream of the conveyor.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An arrangement for producing a nonwoven for the manufacture of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

- a device for feeding fibers of a finite length and of at least one type of filter material ~~to a separating device~~;

- at least two separating devices for respectively separating fibers of at least one type of filter material that the feeding ~~devices~~ device feeds to the at least two separating devices;

- a conveying chute provided downstream of ~~for~~ each separating device, wherein ~~each of~~ the separating devices have different designs so that each separating device separates fibers of one type; and

- a conveyor downstream of the at least two separating devices such that the separated fibers are provided to the conveyor to form a nonwoven, wherein the at least two separating devices each comprise at least one separating element having a rotational axis oriented essentially parallel to a conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 18. (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The arrangement of claim 17, wherein the conveying chutes converge in downstream direction to form a chamber.

Claim 20 (Original): The arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the at least two separating devices are arranged above the conveyor.